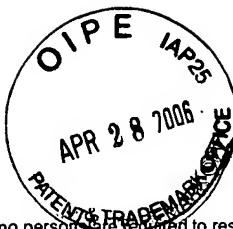


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PTO/SB/33 (07-05)

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PRE-APPEAL BRIEF REQUEST FOR REVIEW

Docket Number (Optional)

SPLX.P0079 (2002-086 05)

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on 04/24/06Signature Herbert StrassbergTyped or printed name Herbert Strassberg

Application Number

10/061,641

Filed

01/31/2002

First Named Inventor

Steven Teig

Art Unit

2825

Examiner

Thuan V. Do

Applicant requests review of the final rejection in the above-identified application. No amendments are being filed with this request.

This request is being filed with a notice of appeal.

The review is requested for the reason(s) stated on the attached sheet(s).

Note: No more than five (5) pages may be provided.

I am the

☐ applicant/inventor.

☐ assignee of record of the entire interest.
See 37 CFR 3.71. Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) is enclosed.
(Form PTO/SB/96)

☐ attorney or agent of record.
Registration number _____

☒ attorney or agent acting under 37 CFR 1.34.
Registration number if acting under 37 CFR 1.34 55,812

Signature

Herbert Strassberg

Typed or printed name

310-785-0140x303

Telephone number

04/24/06

Date

NOTE: Signatures of all the inventors or assignees of record of the entire interest or their representative(s) are required. Submit multiple forms if more than one signature is required, see below*.

☒ *Total of 1 forms are submitted.

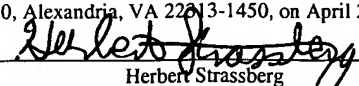
This collection of information is required by 35 U.S.C. 132. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11, 1.14 and 41.6. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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Herbert Strassberg

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application for:

Steven Teig, et al.

Serial No.: 10/061,641

Filing Date: 01/31/2002

For: INTERCONNECT LINES WITH
NON-RECTILINEAR
POLYGONAL TERMINATIONS

Examiner: Thuan V. Do

Group Art Unit: 2825

REMARKS FOR REQUEST FOR PRE-APPEAL CONFERENCE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated 02/23/2006, the Examiner rejected claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over United States Patent 5,117,277 issued to YuYama, et al. ("YuYama"). Claims 2-18 are dependent directly or indirectly on independent claim 1. Claim 1 recites an integrated circuit ("IC") layout that includes a net with routable elements. The IC layout further includes a first set of interconnect lines for connecting the routable elements of the net, where the interconnect lines have ends that are in the shape of partial non-quadrilateral polygons.

Applicants respectfully submit that YuYama does not disclose, teach or even suggest the IC layout of claim 1, which has a set of interconnect lines for connecting the routable elements of the net, where the interconnect lines have ends that are in the shape of partial non-quadrilateral polygons.

The shapes of YuYama's interconnect line ends are not partial non-quadrilateral polygons. YuYama describes "signal wirings 22 that can be electrically connected to one another ... through connection holes 31 formed in the interlayer insulating film 41." *See* YuYama, column 7, line 40-44. As can be seen in Figure 1 of YuYama, the signal wiring interconnect lines are narrower in width than the connection point at their ends, necessitating that they flare outward to a larger dimension. *See* Figure 1 of YuYama. YuYama also states:

The connection portions 21A of the signal wirings 21 have a size greater than the width of the signal wirings 21 by an amount that corresponds to at least the size of the connection holes 31 and to the masking margin in the step of forming the connection holes 31 and the signal wirings 21. That is, the signal wirings 21 have a so-called dog-bone shape and the connection portions 21A have the shape of a regular hexagon.

Column 7, lines 45-52 of YuYama (underline added). YuYama also discloses interconnect line that have their ends in the shape of a complete circle.

In contrast, claim 1 recites interconnect line ends that are in the shape of partial non-quadrilateral polygons. *See* Figures 67 - 69 of the present Application. Applicants respectfully submit that partial non-quadrilateral polygons are different than complete hexagons (as a complete hexagon is not a partial polygon) and complete circles (as complete circles are neither

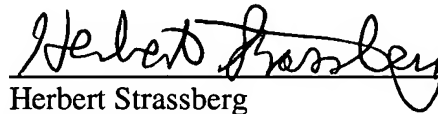
polygons nor partial polygons). Furthermore, Applicants do not even claim interconnect lines in the shape of a circle.

Accordingly, YuYama does not disclose, teach or even suggest interconnect lines that have ends that are in the shape of partial non-quadrilateral polygons. Consequently, Applicants respectfully submit that YuYama does not render claim 1 unpatentable. As claims 2-18 are dependent directly or indirectly on claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-18 are patentable over YuYama for at least the reasons that were discussed above for claim 1. In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the §102(b) rejection of claims 1-18.

Respectfully submitted,

STATTLER, JOHANSEN & ADELI LLP

Dated: April 24, 2006


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